

MINUTES AND REPORT  
of  
MEETING OF COUNCIL  
of  
THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

Held at 49 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne on Monday, April 23rd, 1979  
commencing 7.00 pm.

1. PRESENT

Mr. M. Rundle	Chairman
Mr. O.J. Slattery	Vice-Chairman
Mr. J.N. Black	
Mr. E.J. Long	
Mr. B.H. Macintosh	
Mr. W.W. Rawlinson	Executive Officer

Apologies for non-attendance were received from

Mr. J. Bainbridge	
Mr. K.D. Currey	
Mr. J. Rigby	Hon. Treasurer
Mr. I.A. Wood	

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held 17th March 1979 having been circulated  
were adopted as a correct record of that meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Co-Operative Federation of New South Wales Education Seminar  
- Minute 4(i)

No representatives from Victoria were able to participate in  
the seminar held at Bateman's Bay. However a report from the  
Executive Officer of the Co-Operative Federation of New South  
Wales indicated it could have been successful in demonstrating  
the effectiveness of the audio-visual type of presentation  
prepared for that meeting.

3.2 Meeting with Minister - Minute 7

The Chairman reported on a meeting held with the Minister for  
Housing administering the Co-Operation Act 1958 by a deputation  
from the Co-Operative Federation of Victoria. The meeting was  
considered to be very valuable and the deputation was well  
received by the Minister. It is apparent he is in touch with  
developments under the legislation and direct results from this  
meeting are anticipated following the conclusion of the State  
Parliamentary election.

The deputation spoke to the brief agreed by Council at its last  
meeting and a synopsis of the submissions made to the Minister  
are appended to the file copy of these Minutes.

## 4.

4.1 CORRESPONDENCE

## 4.1 To Federation of Co-Operative Housing Societies

A letter was sent expressing appreciation for the services of Mr. Mason on the Council and inviting the Federation of Co-Operative Housing Societies to nominate a successor to the Council of the Co-Operative Federation of Victoria.

## 4.2 The Co-Operative Insurance Company of Australia

A letter was sent requesting cancellation of policy covering fire and theft and loss of films and requesting cancellation and credit for refund of unexpired portion of premiums paid.

## 4.3 From Premier of Victoria

Mr. Hamer acknowledged receipt of a copy of the submission made to the Minister for Housing.

## 4.4 From Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation

Mr. Dixon acknowledged receipt of the submission made to the Minister and advised the matter had been referred to the Victorian Employment Committee.

## 4.5 From Co-Operative Federation of Australia re Finance Committee

The circular drew attention to the Australian Government enquiry into the financial system and proposed State Federations and financial administrators prepare their State's views for submission to the National Finance Committee for preparation of a submission to the Australian Government Enquiry.

## 4.6 From Co-Operative Federation of Australia re Agriculture Committee

The circular drew attention to a workshop being organised by the Australian Agricultural Council Economics and Marketing Committee in Sydney in May to consider operations, objectives and effectiveness of subsidiary Marketing Boards. The circular suggested State Federations should liaise with Ministers of Agriculture, Heads of Department of Agriculture and Tertiary Agricultural Department Heads to ensure the correct image of co-operatives in Agriculture is presented and the role of co-operatives in Marketing is not weakened in any way.

## 4.7 From Amalgamated Co-Operative Marketers (Australia) Limited

This letter gave advice of intention of non-renewal of membership to the Federation after the end of the current financial year coupled with an offer to assist the Federation in any way possible even if not as members.

## 4.8 From Co-Operative Federation of Australia re Small Businesses and the Trade Practices Act

This invited submissions to the Federation for discussion with the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia to prepare a submission to the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs in response to his enquiry on the subject of small businesses and the Trade Practices Act, particularly Section 49 of that Act.

5. MEMBERSHIP

Applications for membership were received from

- (i) Bendigo Trading Co-Operative Limited
- (ii) Victorian Producers' Co-Operative Company Limited.

Both applications were supported by a copy of the rules, articles of association and last annual report in addition to cheques for the relevant prescribed fee of affiliation.

For the applications being in order both applicants were admitted into membership of the Federation. The matter of exact period of affiliation covered by the fee submitted was considered by Council in relation to the expiring portion of the current financial year. The matter was referred for final decision at the next meeting of the full Council.

6. FINANCIAL

The financial statement covering the period 1/7/78 - 31/3/79 with estimated balance sheet as at 31/3/79 was submitted to the meeting and after full discussion was received and adopted.

7. CORPORATE PLAN

The meeting agreed the synopsis of the workshop on Planning for Development circulated immediately following conclusion of the workshop to be a correct record of decisions taken on objectives, strategies and tactics for the Federation.

A copy of this synopsis is appended to the file copy of these Minutes as Appendix B.

Council noted a letter of appreciation has been forwarded to Mr. McLoughlin.

Council noted that an information circular and questionnaire as required by the workshop has been prepared and issued to 99 producer and trading co-operatives and co-operative companies and 5 societies incorporated under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act. The questionnaire invited return by the 31st May, 1979.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Advisory Council

Mr. Long advised having been given clearance by the Registrar to release for information of Council the draft amendment to the Co-Operation Act prepared for submission to Parliament in 1978. A copy of these draft amendments is appended to these Minutes.

8.2 Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported having visited the following co-operatives in the North-Eastern area -

S.P.C.  
North-Eastern Co-Operative  
Euroa Co-Operative  
Bradford Co-Operative Hotel.

## 8. REPORTS (cont.)

## 8.2 (cont.)

A meeting of representatives of Fishermen's Co-operatives was held in Melbourne under the Chairmanship of Mr. J.N. Black. This was a valuable meeting and was adjourned to enable discussions to be held with the respective Boards of the Co-Operatives and the meeting to re-assemble on 7th June, 1979.

A detailed report on the meeting which was attended by the President of the Australian Fishing Industries Council, the Assistant Director of Commercial Fisheries of Victoria, representatives of the Registrar of Co-Operatives and the Australian Credit Co-Operative Association was tabled at the meeting and will be circulated to all Fishermen's Co-Operatives in Victoria.

The Council recorded its appreciation to Mr. Black for undertaking the Chairmanship of that meeting.

A meeting of co-operative financial administrators in Victoria has been planned for 3rd May 1979 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Slattery. The meeting has been called to consider the views of Victorian Co-Operative Financial Administrators on any submission to the Australian Government Enquiry on the Financial System and also to consider the possible formation of a Co-Operative Financial Administrators Division in this State.

Mr. Rawlinson reported having arranged detailed advisory services to 2 co-operatives in the State. At one of these he will be attending a meeting of the full Board accompanied by a professional accountant experienced in audit of Co-Operatives and Co-Operative Management Services.

Mr. Rawlinson drew the attention of Council to the objectives agreed in March to develop better lines of communication by holding 3 regional meetings before 30th September 1979 and a State Conference before 30th September 1979.

Council agreed one regional meeting should be considered for August and directed detailed decision on this subject of location and planning should be undertaken at the May meeting of Council.

The desirability of planning for an exhibition of co-operative products to be held in conjunction with a State Conference was also deferred for decision by the May meeting of Council.

## 8.3 Co-Operative Federation of Australia

Mr. Long reported he had attended the last meeting of the Council of the Co-Operative Federation of Australia with Mr. Rigby as co-representative of the Co-Operative Federation of Victoria.

At that meeting Mr. E.J. Herring of New South Wales was elected Vice-President.

He reported that the submission concerning Federal Government assistance towards the holding of Council meetings of the International Co-Operative Alliance in Australia in 1980 has been completed and submitted to the Federal Government.

## 8. REPORTS (cont.)

## 8.3 (cont.)

He also indicated Council had asked member State Federations to indicate by mid-June 1979 of their proposed subscriptions for the financial year ending 30th June 1980. Council considered this matter and agreed it should be considered at the its May meeting after consideration of all budgetary matters relating to the ensuing financial year.

Mr. Long also reported a decision of the Council to hold its next meeting in July 1979 in Surfer's Paradise, Queensland. The Council supported the principle of rotating meetings of the Federal Council in the various States but where long distances are incurred it was considered desirable for additional programs of studied visits to co-operatives to be arranged in order to justify the cost and the time expended away from business.

Mr. Long reported that the Finance Committee of the Co-Operative Federation of Australia has been convened to meet in Sydney on 8th May 1979 to consider views of the various member States to be incorporated in a submission to the Australian Government Enquiry on Financial Systems. Having co-ordinated thinking in the Co-Operative Federation of Australia the Committee is to meet with the Committee of the Australian Federation of Credit Union Leagues in Sydney on 9th May. Thereafter a submission will be made by the Co-Operative Federation of Australia which will be complementary to that of A.F.C.U.L.

He also advised that the Council of the Co-Operative Federation of Australia is seeking increased detailed support for re-activation of submissions on the establishment of a Primary Producer Co-Operative service in the Federal Department of Primary Industry.

9. NEXT MEETING

Council agreed that its next meeting be held on Monday, 28th May, 1979 at 49 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne.

Councillors were asked to indicate by 24th May of any inability to attend this scheduled meeting.

10. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.00 pm.

*John Long*  
28/5/79